

Batter up!

5th CCG team takes Robins softball championship

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates
5th CCG Public Affairs

Hard-hitting softball players in the 5th Combat Communications Group have had a busy month in September.

The group's softball team swept the Robins Air Force Base intramural championship, and then seven group members assisted the Robins varsity team win the United States Slowpitch Softball Association's "B Class" World Championship.

To start off the month, the 5 CCG intramural team battled a combined team from the Office of Special Investigations, the NCO Club and the 367th Recruiting Squadron. Although the composite team had battled valiantly – going into the final game on a nine-game winning streak — the 5th Mob team overpowered them, 12-4.

"They played a great game," said Troy Jarrell, 5th CCG team coach. "They just ran out of gas. With three of the team members retiring, we knew it would be nice to send them out on top."

A major play of the game was when the group's right fielder "caught a ball over the fence and pulled it back down," Jarrell continued.

Six members of the team, and Jarrell as coach, joined with the Robins AFB Varsity team in the USSSA championship, held in Atlanta Sept. 15.

Twenty-one teams from all over the United States competed in the tournament. These teams were from both military and private sector. Robins went 6-0 through the entire weekend tournament.

The team played their first game against Asplundh from Alabama, winning it 17-14. The next game was against Bolling Shipyard, La. The varsity team won this game, 8 to 3. The third game was a sluggers para-



Photo by Sue Sapp.

Sam Pursley, 5th CCG first baseman, completes a doubleplay at first during the base softball championships. The batter had lined out to third, and the team caught the runner returning to first.

dise, but Robins came away winning that one against Fenton's Construction, from West Virginia, 27-27. The final game of the first day of play was against Dupont Fibers, Va. The Robins team clobbered them, winning 20-4. That win placed the Robins team in the winner's bracket.

The first game of the next day was against Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. Robins won that game, 13-9; and then rested for a bit while their final competitor was decided between the Charleston team or the Dupont team. When Charleston beat Dupont, 22-20, it set up the final game of the tournament.

The Robins team jumped to an early lead, but then lost momentum, losing and regaining the lead until at the bottom of the seventh inning, Charleston led 13-11. The Rob-

ins team put together four straight hits to come back and win the game 14-13.

"We could not have won this tournament without everyone assisting," said Jarrell, who is also the varsity coach. "The team has come a long way since we first started playing in April – we really jelled in July. That jelling carried over into this tournament."

Four members, including Jarrell, were selected for the All World Team. Greg Harden, who was also the tournament's most valuable player; George Broussard; Mel Hendrickson and Jarrell. Other team members from the group include Sam Pursley, Tommy Hession, and Denzil Drain.

Editor's note: Airman 1st Class Eric Smith, Air Logistics Center Public Affairs contributed significantly to this article.

The Air Force operates in a seamless operational medium. It is through the integration of the full array of aerospace capabilities that we can best serve the needs of the Nation.

GT&T
GATOR TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH

Out the door

52nd preps for upcoming ORI





October 2000 Volume 8 Number 9

Commander
Col. David C. Schreck
Deputy Commander
Lt. Col. Donald Mertz Jr.
Chief, Public Affairs and Editor
Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates

About the cover
Senior Airman Maribel Ponce evaluates a 52nd vehicle during the Phase I portion of Crown Jewel 00-4. The 52nd was the first squadron to start preparing for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection in January. For more photos and a story, please see pages 6-7.

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ACC announces Contending Warrior winners

INDIAN SPRINGS AIR FORCE AUXILIARY FIELD, Nev. (ACCNS) — Air Combat Command officials announced the overall winners for this year’s Contending Warrior 2000 security forces competition here. In the overall team competition, Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., earned first place honors. Second place went to Langley AFB, Va., and third to Nellis AFB, Nev. In other team events, first place in tactics went to Davis Monthan. Second place went to AFB, S.D., and third place went to Dyess AFB, Texas. In the fitness challenge category, where teams compete in a timed run on an obstacle

course, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, took first place while Nellis followed in second and Davis Monthan took third. Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland, took first place in the M-9 handgun competition. In second place was Beale AFB, Calif., and following in third was Offutt AFB, Neb. The M-16 combat rifle competition first place award went to Keflavik. Second place went to Davis Monthan, and third place went to Nellis. The team from Barksdale AFB, La., earned the spirit award for displaying the most spirit both on and off the course.

Officials determine cause of F-16 crash

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) — Investigators have determined a bird strike caused the crash of an Air Force F-16CG fighter jet June 21 on the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range in Alberta, Canada. The pilot of the aircraft, Capt. Richard Pietrykowski, from the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base Utah, ejected safely and sustained only minor injuries. The F-16 impacted the ground in a lightly forested muskeg area of the weapons range and was completely destroyed. According to the investigation report re-

leased by Air Combat Command, the crash occurred when a mature American White Pelican struck the canopy of the F-16. The pelican penetrated the windscreen, causing structural failure of the canopy and heads-up display. Debris from the canopy, the HUD and the pelican struck the pilot, causing confusion, disorientation and vision loss. Pietrykowski ejected from the aircraft and was picked up by Canadian search and rescue forces. At the time of the accident, Pietrykowski and his unit were taking part in the Maple Flag joint training exercise.

Moody gets vapor extraction equipment

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) — A system that extracted vapors from contaminated soil around Langley’s gas station was disassembled and shipped to Moody AFB, Ga., Sept. 5. The recycling of the system will help the environment and save the Air Force about \$75,000, according to base environmental experts. The system extracted petroleum vapors from soil near the gas station for four years. Leaks from an underground storage tank holding fuel or oil had contaminated the soil in the late 1980s. When a leaking tank is discovered, monitoring wells are installed in the area around the tank, especially in the direction that groundwater is flowing, environmental experts said. The monitoring wells are used to

check for oil that may have reached the groundwater and is traveling beyond the immediate site of the leaking tank. Cleaning up a site includes removing tanks, removing contaminated soil and using the monitoring wells. Since Langley had met all of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s requirements for clean-up around the gas station, the vapor extraction system was shut down in November 1999 and offered to other bases. “The cost savings for the government, environmental program, Air Force, Headquarters Air Combat Command and the base to reuse expensive equipment to clean up the environment problem at another installation benefit everyone,” said Vern Bartels, Langley’s environmental restoration chief.

AROUND THE SQUADRON

Congratulations to Senior Airman Keven and Crystal Foster on the birth of their new baby daughter, Ariel Jae. She was born Sept 18 at 12:47 a.m., weighed in at 8 lbs even and measured 20 inches long.

PROMOTIONS

Staff Sgt. Becker, Daniel, SCBNO
Staff Sgt. Fields, Brandon, SCMA
Staff Sgt. Palmer, Charles, SCBNA

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES & TDY

Farewell to the following people who are departing:
Senior Airman David W. Cannady, SCBNM, Osan Air Base, South Korea
Staff Sgt. Richard E. Wheeler, SCMW, Camp Humphreys, South Korea
Airman 1st Class Kristopher G. Battles, SCBMS, Izmir, Turkey
Staff Sgt. Maurice R. McKelley, SCMW

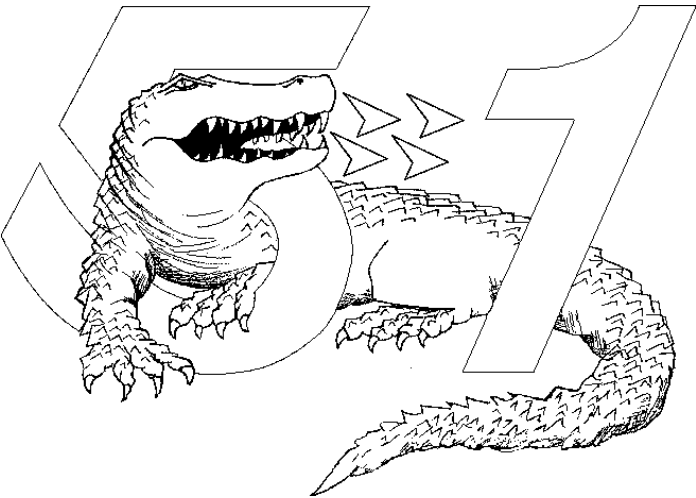
Welcome to the following new members of the 52nd CBCS:
Senior Airman Andy I. Perezcaban, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.
Senior Airman Michael A. Najar, Keflavik, Iceland
Tech. Sgt. James L. Stewart, Naples, Italy
2nd Lt. Daniel J. Fogle, Accession

ARRIVALS

Airman 1st Class Natalie Cliett, CTBN Tech School
Airman 1st Class Mike McSurdy, CTNW, Tech School
Airman 1st Class Tim Scott, CTNW, Tech School
Senior Airman Rachel Holland, CTN, PCA
Master Sgt. Christy Christensen, McClellan Air Force Base, Calif.

DEPARTURES

Master Sgt. Samuel Price PCA to 93 ACW/OSS
Staff Sgt. Willie Wiggins, Separation
Tech. Sgt. Chris Adams, PCS to Korea



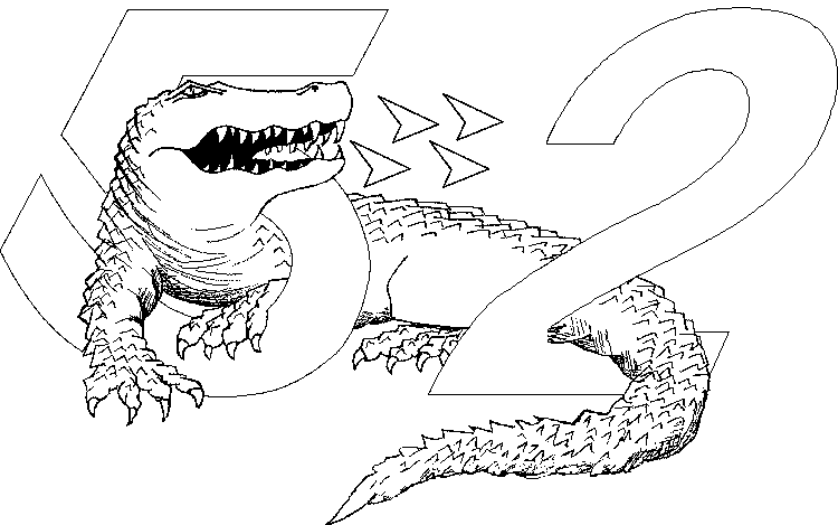
BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 1 — Staff Sgt. Moses Knott, III SCBN
Oct. 3 — Senior Airman Thomas C. Kowolonek, CTPC
Oct. 6 — Tech. Sgt. Tony B. Johnson, SCBI
Oct. 7 — A1C Matthew Johnson, SCMW
Oct. 7 — Staff Sgt. Roger E. Whitehead, SCBNA
Oct. 14 — Senior Airman James W. Woolard, Jr. SCMW
Oct. 16 — Senior Airman Daniel J. Becker, SCBNO
Oct. 18 — Staff Sgt. Angel L. Martell, Jr. CCQ
Oct. 19 — Master Sgt. Russell Weeks,

SCBNM
Oct. 21 — Staff Sgt. Scott T. Rohde, SCMH
Oct. 23 — Tech. Sgt. Allen D. Lindsey, SCBNA
Oct. 23 — Staff Sgt. Robert L. Robertson, SCBRJ
Oct. 28 — A1C Thomas G. Dayley, SCBNA
Oct. 31 — A1C Dorian L. Parsons, SCMS

RETIREMENTS

After 20 years of faithful and dedicated service. You will be missed!
Master Sgt. Walfrido Rodriguez, is retiring Nov. 1, 2000.



Be safe! A few moments evaluating the situation can prevent the loss of time, limb or life!



BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 1 — Master Sgt. Clifton R. Clemons
Oct. 3 — Chief Master Sgt. Thomas N. Perry Jr
Oct. 4 — Staff Sgt. Terry S. Lighty
Oct. 10 — Tech. Sgt. Ramona J. Wolfe
Oct. 11 — Staff Sgt. Patrick Kopecky
Oct. 9 — Master Sgt. James C. Howard
Oct. 22 — Master Sgt. Gregory W. Harden
Oct. 25 — Master Sgt. George W. Brown Jr
Oct 9 — 2nd Lt. Jennifer L. Varga

PROMOTIONS

Airman Cedric R. Belmont
Tech. Sgt. Timothy V. Lindsay
Master Sgt. Wayne M. Mcghie

TDY’S

Master Sgt. Edward Maddox, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Rodney Singleton, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia
Tech. Sgt. Rsmoms Wolfe, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia
2nd Lt. Charles Hawkins, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia

BIRTHDAYS

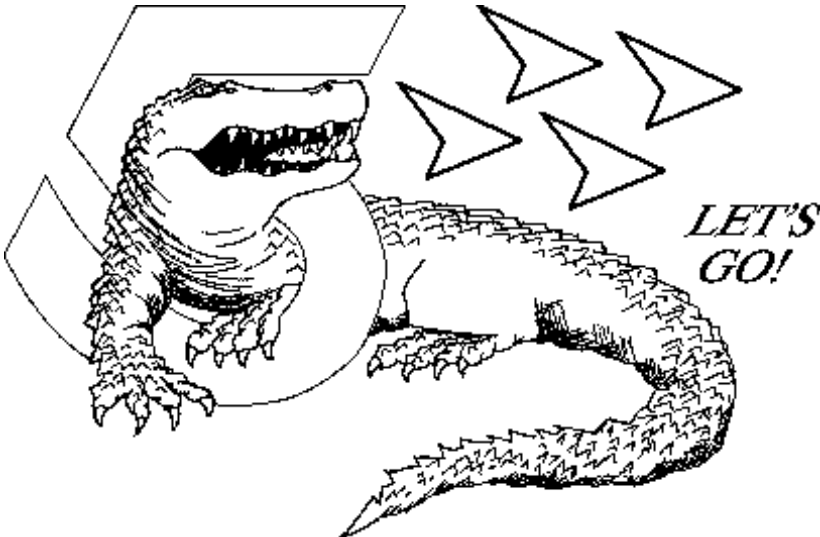
Oct. 30 - Airman 1st Class Samuel Anders
Oct. 28 - Airman 1st Class Brian Johnson
Oct. 11 - Staff Sgt Bruce Lane
Oct. 23 - Airman 1st Class Diana Moreno
Oct. 23 - Master Sgt Thomas Norris
Oct. 1 - Airman 1st Class Rhonda Smiley

FAREWELL

Tech Sgt Joseph Brown, PCS
Staff Sgt Corri Cousin, PCA’d to 5th
Tech Sgt Donald Winecoff, PCA’d to 5th
Airman 1st Class Brian Johnson, PCS
1st Lt. Michael Kleffman, PCS
1st Lt. Jeffrey Katzman, PCS

WELCOME

Master Sgt Barry Clark, CTN
Master Sgt Michael Bent, CTB
Airman 1st Class George Hindman, CTC
Senior Airman Michael Rogers, CTN
Airman Basic Savu Savulescu, CTN
Airman 1st Class Jeremy Burris, CTN
Staff Sgt Ross Stotz, CTN



Staff Sgt. Timothy Lindsay, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

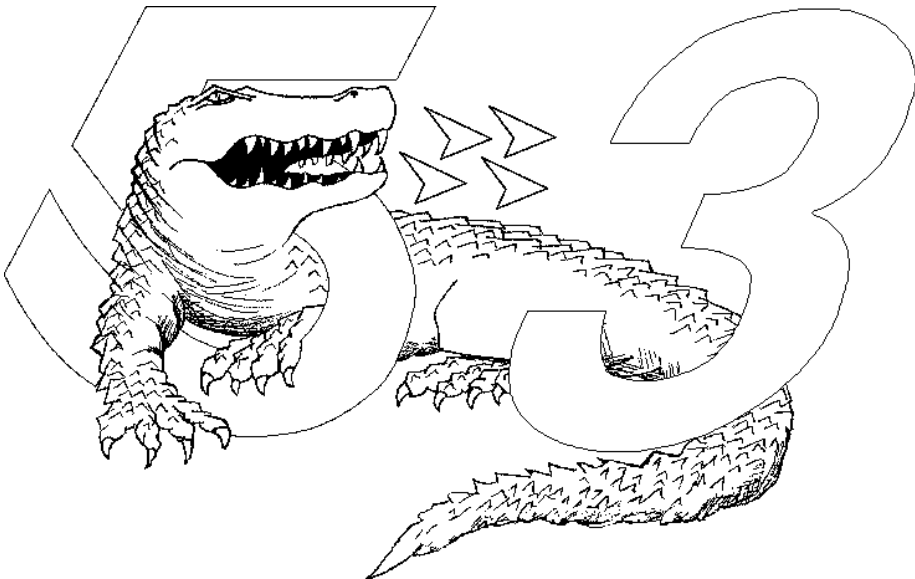
ARRIVALS

Senior Airman Phillip Ruble – PCAed from the 54th to CTPXD
Senior Airman Timothy Beachy – PCS to CTPXL
Airman 1st Class Stuart Vaughn – PCS to

CTSVM
Master Sgt. Desi Sasil – PCA from the 51st to CTSMC

DEPARTURES

Tech. Sgt. William G. Young – PCS to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.
2nd Lt. Adisa Hinton – PCA to 52 CBCS



Lt Marshall White, CTB

PROMOTIONS

Senior Airman Christopher Freeman
Senior Airman Hugh Hultman
Staff Sgt Jai Rodriguez

NEW MOBSTERS

Staff Sgt. Brain Wiggins and wife, Angela, had a boy (Phillip) on Sept. 16 - 7lbs 14oz.
Senior Master Sgt. John Moffo and wife, Colette, had a boy (Michael) on Sept. 1-7lbs 14oz.

Emphasize important things in ORI

By Col. David Schreck
5th CCG Commander

It doesn’t seem like Y2K happened that long ago, but 2000 is rapidly winding down. As usual, it’s been a very busy year in the Mob. AEF support at a number of locations along with several exercises, and a major deployment to Joint Expeditionary Force Exercise has made for a full plate. We’re in the fourth quarter now and it’s time to focus on the important things—our people, our training programs, and our equipment—to ensure we’re on the right track.

Commander’s philosophy focuses on five Fs

By Maj. Michael Black
5th CBCSS Commander

When I spent a year in residence at the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., I learned and honed several leadership skills. One aspect of the school that had a great impact on me was the Leadership Class, specifically the portion on command philosophy. A commander’s command philosophy covers a commander’s general beliefs and tells the subordinates the things he/she believes and stands for and things he/she won’t stand for. In fact, in many Army units the commander actually publishes his/her command philosophy for the troops. I decided to adapt this style and publish my own command philosophy for my tenure as commander of the 5th Combat Communications Support Squadron. The following is my command philosophy:

First and foremost, the Air Force’s business is “To defend the United States through control and exploitation of air and space.” I believe our contribution to the Air Force’s business is to provide the most reliable and responsive combat communications to the warfighters anytime, anywhere. In order to ensure success in supporting the warfighter, my philosophy is based upon five pillars, three of which a former Senior Rater used as his philosophy or basic principles. The five pillars of my philosophy are taking care of the “five F’s”: Family, Fitness, Flying,

There are two more Crown Jewels, one at the end of this month and one in early December, before we take a break prior to the ACC IG arriving in mid-January for our ORI. This is our chance to show ACC that the 5th Mob does deployable comm better than any other unit. Communications, airfield, and weather systems ...anytime, anywhere ... that’s what it’s all about! We have a very important mission, one where a lot of folks are depending on us for the tools to do their job, whether they’re launching aircraft, providing humanitarian relief, or showing the

Fairness, and Fun; not necessarily in that order. If we focus on these five pillars I believe we will always be ready for success. **Family:** In this instance family refers to the airman’s immediate family as well as his/her extended family-the unit. I firmly believe that if you know your family is in good hands and well taken care of you will be best prepared to conduct the Air Force mission. I expect you to take all the time you need to ensure your family’s support structure is in place. Take the time to set up the appropriate infrastructure, whether it be housing, transportation, schools, medical or nutrition. You do your family, yourself, and unit absolutely no good if those items are not adequately provided for.

Fitness: In this instance fitness refers to physical, mental, and spiritual fitness. I expect you to take the time to keep yourself physically fit for both health reasons and the ability to actually performed our physically demanding mission. Mental fitness includes obtaining all the training required to perform our mission. It also includes professional and personal education required for career enhancement. Additionally, mental fitness includes taking time off from the job. Although we are an expeditionary Air Force and we are a deployable unit I strongly encourage everyone taking the appropriate amount of annual leave. Specifically, if at all possible, avoid losing leave. Spiritual fitness involves doing what it takes to nurture your spirit whether is be attending church, attending/

US is engaged in an area. I’ve enjoyed continuing to meet you around the base, in your workcenters, and out at the exercise locations. You’re a great group of folks that have stood up to a very tough mission—please let me know if there’s anything I can do to help or anything we can do as an organization to optimize our effectiveness. There’s always room for improvement and I challenge each of you to be the leader in your workcenter who is going to “make a difference.” I’m proud to be a member of the 5th Mob team—Let’s Go!

teaching Sunday school or meditating privately each day. **Flying:** In this instance flying stands for the primary mission of the Air Force-flying. Never forget our ultimate goal is to contribute and support the Air Force mission. Our specific contribution is to provide the most reliable and responsive combat communications to the warfighters anytime, anywhere. **Fairness:** Fairness implies eliminating one’s own feelings, prejudice, and desires so as to achieve a proper balance of conflicting interests. In ensuring fairness I believe you must be just, equitable, impartial, unbiased, dispassionate and objective. When making decisions, one of my most important considerations is ensuring I am fair.

Fun: As for fun, I believe in working hard and playing hard. Part of playing hard includes having fun. I also believe the job is a lot easier if you having fun. I am all for activities that allow us to have fun and complete the mission at the same time. **Summary:** In summary, my philosophy revolves around the “five F’s”: family, fitness, flying, fairness, and fun. Although five very simple words, I believe if we focus on the family (both your personal and professional), fitness (your physical, mental and spiritual), flying (the primary mission of the Air Force), fairness (being impartial and objective in your actions) and having fun, the rest will fall in place automatically.

51st Team returns from JEFX

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates
5th CCG Public Affairs

The last of nearly 40 members of the 51st Combat Communications Squadron returned home from their most recent deployment to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada Sept. 28.

The communicators had deployed to the base to participate in the Joint Expeditionary Forces Experiment 2000. This was the third deployment for members of the squadron in the last six months. The first two deployments were to set up tactical communications equipment and troubleshoot – the last deployment was to provide communication support, said Capt. Timothy Pearson, 51st CBCS. He was in charge of the deployed communicators at Nellis. The 51st members and people from six Air National Guard units provided the tactical communication for JEFX.

“Basically, we had to support two customers,” he said, “the Combined Air Operations Center Forward and the Expeditionary Operations Center. Both centers had different missions, and required different support. The CAOC-F were the people who controlled the aircraft and executed the air tasking order.” They were involved with the basics of all the flying, and the combat.

The 51st people supported all their communications requirements, including setting up a large help desk and on-site response to troubleshoot problems during live play.

“We made sure that we monitored the live circuits during the experiment to ensure the CAOC-F got their information from the aircraft,” he continued.

The EOC experimented with procedures and new technology to enhance Agile Combat Support — they were the ones making sure the various support elements would be in place during a real world contingency. The 51st team supported them as well with a help desk and troubleshooting response.

The experiment gave the 51st members some invaluable training they could never have gotten from a local exercise, Pearson said. First of all, they could never simulate the number of true users on a network in a exercise – they had 200 people continuously

using their communications network. This generated 1,200 troubleshooting calls for the members of the flight “This was a great opportunity for our folks to learn during a real world situation without having to go to war. We learned how to deal with users, and respond to their rapidly changing needs.”

The squadron members also got an opportunity to put a full “load” on their equipment. “We got a chance to see how much we could actually do with our Theater Deployable Communication package. For instance, we set up 64 secure telephone sets and provided digital telephone service (ISDN) –we don’t usually deal with that many secure phone requirements. We faced a lot of technical challenges that we couldn’t have been able to predict without the real-world mission through JEFX.”



Unit members agree with the amount of learning which took place at the Nellis experiment. Senior Airman Greg Bailey, a telephone data switch apprentice, did a great deal of the wire support – laying the infrastructure for the voice and data systems. During this point of the experiment, Bailey said the section was in a maintenance mode – dealing with troubles when they arose. They also responded to any additional requirements.

“I learned a lot from this deployment,” he said. “I did a lot of work with fiber optic lines, learned about the data side of the infrastructure, dealt with video feeds and ran voice through data switches – much of this was new. We were able to bring a lot back to the work center as well. We can now offer a lot more capabilities to our customers when we deploy on exercises or in real world situations.”

This learning crossed the gamut between the different specialties in tactical communications, according to Staff Sgt. Ed Wilson, who worked in network operations while at Nellis. Wilson and other members in network operations monitored the equipment and provided updates on which circuits and services were available.

“This was pretty intense,” Wilson related. “There were a lot of high ranked people walking around, so we wanted to make sure we did a good job. Plus, almost everything was new – or was an experiment. Most of our time was spent supporting new initiatives. I learned a great deal about where the Air Force is going, and how we will be fighting our wars in the future. This is the best temporary duty assignment I have ever been on.”

JEFX is a large-scale experiment designed to prepare Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine forces for the challenges of future combat. It combines live-fly forces, simulations and technology to form a realistic environment for warfighters to explore new technologies and processes. The experiment began Aug. 28 and ran through Sept. 15, although members of the 51st stayed longer to help prepare equipment to remain in-place.

The live-fly portion of JEFX 00 involved 100 aircraft from the Air Force, Navy and Marines. This year, the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle was integrated over the range during strikes and controllers kept fighters and bombers deconflicted above the UAV. The JEFX live-fly phase began right after a major electronic warfare exercise, Green Flag 00-4. Many assets from Green Flag, already in place at Nellis, rolled right into JEFX.

Curt Seebaldt, JEFX live-fly planner for the Command and Control Training and Innovation Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla., said that Nellis is ideal for such a challenging event. “Nellis has the airspace, ranges, threats and infrastructure in place to support such a large-scale event. It’s the logical choice for the live-fly portion of the experiment,” he explained.

According to Seebaldt, the Nevada Test and Training Range is a major reason experts chose this location. The 3.1 million-acre range located north of Nellis is designed for realism and provides aircrews and planners more leeway than other locations.

54th

Continued from Page 8

Staff Sgt. Danny L. Hunt, CTF, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class John D. Sampson, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Gary J. Holtgreffe, CTB, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Corby J. Priddy, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman Jamison Drees, CTBO, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. John Norris, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Joey Bertschinger, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Jimmy B. Sosa, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Master Sgt. Donald Koser, CTBV, Gunther Air Force Base, Ala.
Airman 1st Class Daniel R. Romero, CTFR, Tuzla
Airman 1st Class Joseph C. Talbot, CTFR, Tuzla
Senior Airman Kevin Barfield, CTFR, Tuzla

Staff Sgt. Ricky Vaughan, CTFR, Tuzla
Airman 1st Class Brian K. Lambert, CTFM, Tuzla
Master Sgt. Shelly A. Attiliis, CTFA, Tuzla
WELCOME HOME
2nd Lt. Maria Orlikoski,
Tech. Sgt. John Hunt,
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Waddell,

NEWCOMERS
Tech. Sgt. Gary Mailhot
Tech. Sgt. Roger Kamrowski
Senior Airman Jeffrey Pelkey
2nd Lt. Kirk Hansen
Tech. Sgt. Dean Neptune
Airman Pierce Butler
Senior Airman Daniel Nichols
Senior Airman Dennis Raglin
Senior Airman Scott Peterman
Capt. Charmaine Martin
Airman 1st Class Heather Whitten
Airman 1st Class Kyndra Rutledge
Master Sgt. Ernest Woodard
Senior Airman Ronald Maldonado
Staff Sgt. Randy Downie

Airman 1st Class Nathan Tuttle
Airman 1st Class John Michael Guin

PCS DEPARTURES
Master Sgt. Douglas Lee
Senior Airman George Howell
Staff Sgt. Daniel Behrens

PCA DEPARTURES
Tech. Sgt. Richard Robin
Senior Airman Phillip Ruble

SEPARATIONS/RETIREMENTS
Senior Airman Joe Jex
Senior Airman Patrick Bailey

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Airman 1st Class Jimmy Sosa: Squadron Airman of the Quarter
Staff Sgt. John Norris: Squadron NCO of theQuarter
Master Sgt. Brian Hipps: Squadron Senior NCO of the Quarter
Capt. Alan Estes: Squadron Officer of theQuarter

Airman 1st Class Jaron M. Thorne



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates

Airman 1st Class Jaron Thorne checks the current in an air conditioning system.

Hometown: Roanoke, Va.
Unit: 54th CBCS/CTCR
Job title: Heating, ventilation and air conditioning and refrigeration maintenance
Brief job description: maintain heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration equipment for Air Force personnel.
Currently reading: The Bible and “How to Become a Good Leader,” by Martin Luther King Jr.
Philosophy of life: To be able to help others when needed
Goals: To be completely trained to become more of an asset to the Air Force.
Supervisor’s comments: Airman Thorne is an outstanding young airman -- he’s dynamic, outgoing and very hard working. One of the best troops in CTC.

COMMANDER’S
SPOTLIGHT

BIRTHDAYS

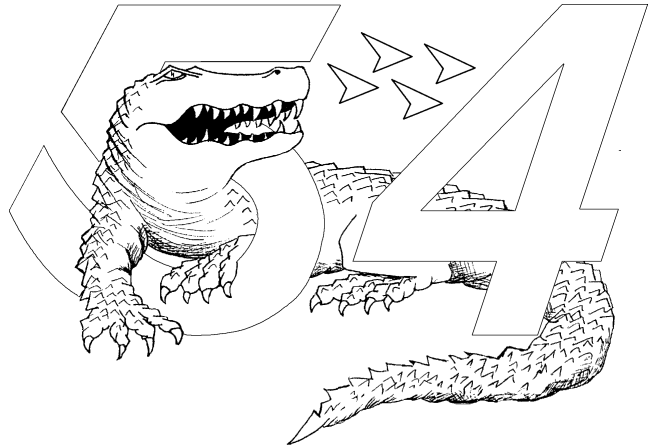
Senior Airman Jason Crouse
Staff Sgt. Daniel Behrens
Airman 1st Class Rocky Smitherman
Staff Sgt. James McGarr
Staff Sgt. John Derossett
Staff Sgt. Richard Bice
Staff Sgt. Andy Lethco

PROMOTIONS

Staff Sgt. James McGarr
Master Sgt. William Mohr

TDY DEPARTEES

Senior Airman Howard Travis, CTBR, Al Dafhra
1st Lt. Joshua M. Vanorman, CTB, Al Dafhra
Airman 1st Class Nathan D. Tuttle, CTNW, Al Dafhra
Staff Sgt. Richard D. Blanda, CTFT, Al Dahfra
Airman 1st Class Christopher E. Dustin, CTNW, Al Dahfra
Senior Airman Jermaine S. Mason, CTNW, Al Dahfra
Airman 1st Class Justin A. Beck, CTNW, Al Dhafra
Senior Airman Robin T. Elliott, CTCP, Al Dhafra
Staff Sgt. Aaron Harrison, CTNE, Al Dhafra
Staff Sgt. James A. Bass, CTCP, Al Jaber
Airman Ronald S. Maldonado, CTCP, Al Jaber
Staff Sgt. Mario Denunno, CTB, Eskan
Maj. Stephen W. Korns, CC, Eskan
Senior Airman Jason Crouse, CTBV, Eskan Village
Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Stathakis, CTCR, Gunther Air Force Base
Airman 1st Class Bridget Y. Alcon, CTFR, Honor Guard
Airman Justin G. Anderson, CTNW, Honor Guard
Airman 1st Class John Micheal Guin, SCMS, Honor Guard
Airman 1st Class Kadum J. Townsend, CTNW, Honor Guard
Airman 1st Class Kajornsak Thongsrisuk, CTNW, Honor Guard
Airman 1st Class Shane Gonzales, CTCP, Kuwait
Airman 1st Class Rocky Smitherman, CTCP, Kuwait
Civ. Daniel A. Nichols, CTNW, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
Civ. Scott F. Peterman, CTFT, Oman



Senior Airman James R. McGarr, CTCS, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Tech. Sgt. William Jackson, CTCS, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Matthew B. Stallings, CTBR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Sandra Thomas, CTBN, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Richard Jamison, CTFT, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Keith S. Lackey, CTBV, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman David Blaylock, CTF, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Edgar Herbold, CTFM, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman Kelly Casey, CTBV, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman Todd Storms, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Master Sgt. Fletcher L. Barnes, CTB, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Robert Gritton, CTBR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Master Sgt. Ernest Woodard Jr., CTB, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Tech. Sgt. William Mohr, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
2nd Lt. Jason E. MacDonald, CTN, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Thomas L. McLaughlin, CTFR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman Richard Logreco, CTBN, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Siobhan G. Joseph, CTBN, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Mark Cir, CTBV, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman Robert Johnson III, CTFT, PSAB, Saudi Arabia

Staff Sgt. John D. Derossett, CTCA, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Peter Aung, Jr., CTFR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman John A. Wrobel, CTCP, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Richard P. Bice, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Master Sgt. Michael E. Joyner, CCF, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Christopher Wilson, CTBR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman Allan Prunty, CTFR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Ameer Weston, CTF, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Scott Foster, CTFT, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Michael C. F. Huston, CTCQ, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class John L. Krummel, CTBV, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Master Sgt. Matthew D. Gaulke, CTF, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. George Platzter, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Andy Lethco, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman Efran L. Garcia, CTNW, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. Randy L. Downie, CTCP, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Staff Sgt. John Bass, CTCR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Senior Airman Duane Lansinghoward, CTBR, PSAB, Saudi Arabia
Airman 1st Class Nathan A. McNeely, CTCP, PSAB, Saudi Arabia

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Ops experience gives officers ACE in hole

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates
5th CCG Public Affairs

A person’s first assignment can often make or break their commitment to making the Air Force a long term career. For many first-term communications officers, the usual experience of working in a staff officer position as their first job was often disconcerting, stressful and unsubstantial.

The Air Force developed the Aerospace Communications and Information Expertise program, or ACE, to combat those first-assignment tensions, according to Lt. Col. Don Mertz, 5th Combat Communications Group deputy commander. He manages the group’s program for 22 first term lieutenants.

“This program is great because it gives new communications officers the opportunity to see the operational Air Force in their first assignment,” Mertz said. “By coming to a unit like the 5th, the officer can gain a basic understanding of the communication mission – how we support the Air Force during wartime.”

ACE lieutenants can be assigned to a number of different units , including combat communications, combat camera, base com units, and air communications squadrons among others. After a two year operational tour, they move to a staff position and take what they have learned to those new positions.

“This helps people in the career because they know that the folks at headquarters are making recommendations and decisions based on real experience – staffers go on to use the information they got at the operational assignment to make qualified decisions,” Mertz said. “Often, these young lieutenants would wonder such things as how they could make an informed decision on deployments when they had never experienced one on their own. Through the ACE program, we can give them a taste of what the operational Air Force is like.”

Almost a third of the 5th’s officer corps are ACE lieutenants, said the colonel. This is

incredibly beneficial for the group, because they don’t count against any unit authorizations – they are additional people to help get the fast-paced 5th Mob mission accomplished.

“We are building tomorrow’s leaders today with this program,” the colonel continued. “Commanders have a key role in this development – they are responsible for providing leadership and mentoring, as well as improving retention rates. However, even the enlisted corps has an important role in this training. Enlisted people, especially senior NCOs, soon discover it’s in their best interest to provide guidance and tricks of the trade

“There is a significant amount of pride and prestige to take with you once you finish a tour with the 5th Mob because of the high ops tempo and the constant demands placed on its members for worldwide needs and support.”

1st Lt. Oscar Robinson

to these lieutenants. These people will be the future communications flight commanders in five years and future squadron commanders in 15 years.”

Working as an ACE lieutenant gives the first-term officer a great opportunity for career growth. They usually attend the Basic Communications Officer Training Course within the first six months of their tour. Then, at some point

between the 1 year and 15 month point, they are moved at least once – either within their assigned squadron or from a mission squadron to the support squadron. “This gives them a wide variety of experience in different situations,” said Mertz. “We also send them on at least one operational tour in an Air Force or Joint Chiefs of Staff deployment or pop-up contingency. That way they can see Air Force communication in action. The ACE lieutenants are also critical part of the group’s internal exercise program in all levels, to make sure they understand the standards and compliance members of the inspector general help maintain.”

The benefits, even to new ACE lieutenants, are numerous, according to 2nd Lt. Phillip Povolich, 52nd Combat Communications Squadron. He’s one of the most recent arrivals at the unit, and just underwent his first Crown Jewel – a group standardization and evaluation exercise. “As a prior enlisted person, I dealt with communication on a different level. I was admin, so I saw the base

messaging center and the like. I never saw the communication big picture,” he said. “I never expected to have an opportunity to see an operation as sophisticated as this one to be able to see the overall story.

“This tour has already helped me tremendously,” he continued. “This is what the Air Force is all about, why you do your job. When you work in a job like this, you truly feel like you are doing something for your country. Even though I don’t have a lot of experience with the equipment, as a unit deployment manager I dealt with a lot of the command and control aspects of a deployment. So far, I have learned a lot.”

And the benefits to future members of the 5th Mob and other communications units are evident to 1st Lt. Oscar Robinson, who leaves after his tour to work at Air Force Communications Agency at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. “My experience here at the 5th Mob will contribute greatly to my next assignment at Scott; At this point, I don’t know what my next job will be other than I’ll be working in AFCA. But I can say that through the experiences I’ve had here in the 5th I’ve been given a pretty solid foundation to build on along with the understanding, appreciation, and importance of taking care of your people.”

One of the highlights of the lieutenant’s career was his operational deployment to Turkey, where he got an opportunity to work with communicators from other services, as well as work closely with high level officers from both U.S. and allied countries. “There is a significant amount of pride and prestige to take with you once accomplishing a tour with the 5th Mob because of the high ops tempo and the constant demands placed on its members for worldwide needs and support,” he said.

“Since this was my first tour, though, it also gave me a measuring stick against which I will measure all my future assignments. There is a significant amount of pride and prestige to take with you once you finish a tour with the 5th Mob because of the high ops tempo and the constant demands placed on its members for worldwide needs and support.”

And that’s a lot to carry out of your first assignment.

Preparing to excel

52nd deploys to Macon for exercise

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates
5th CCG Public Affairs

The 5th Combat Communications Group took its first major steps toward preparing for January's operational readiness inspection with its most recent Crown Jewel.

The 52nd Combat Communications Squadron headed out to the field Sept 25, with a main camp at Smart Field and smaller operations at Americus and Vidalia, for Crown Jewel 00-4.

These types of exercises are great for making sure the group maintains the proper focus on its mission, according to Lt. Col. Don Mertz, group deputy commander and inspector general. "Our objective is to put the mission squadrons back into the bare base warfighting mentality – rapid communication activation, sustainment and survivability. We must never forget that our primary duty is to be the first on the ground, building communication services from scratch. Just like an infantry unit needs to stay proficient in its combat role in peace, we need to be able to do both bare base operations

and steady state rotations."

Since this was the 52nd's first Crown Jewel in 15 months, their personnel turnover had a great impact on them, according to the colonel. "The 52nd overcame a number of giant learning curves," he said. "They were a different unit by the time the exercise ended. We focused on training, training and more training during this exercise."

With the ORI around the corner, the group is already gearing up for another exercise in late October and one in early November. The colonel is anticipating that the 52nd will improve on what they learned during this exercise, while the 53rd will be included in the exercise equation. "Of course, our ultimate objective is to have four combat-ready squadrons ready to go at any time," Mertz said. "By the time the exercise in December is done, these two units will be fine-tuned to excel during the ORI."



The second convoy of three heads out the Russell Parkway gate to Smart Field.

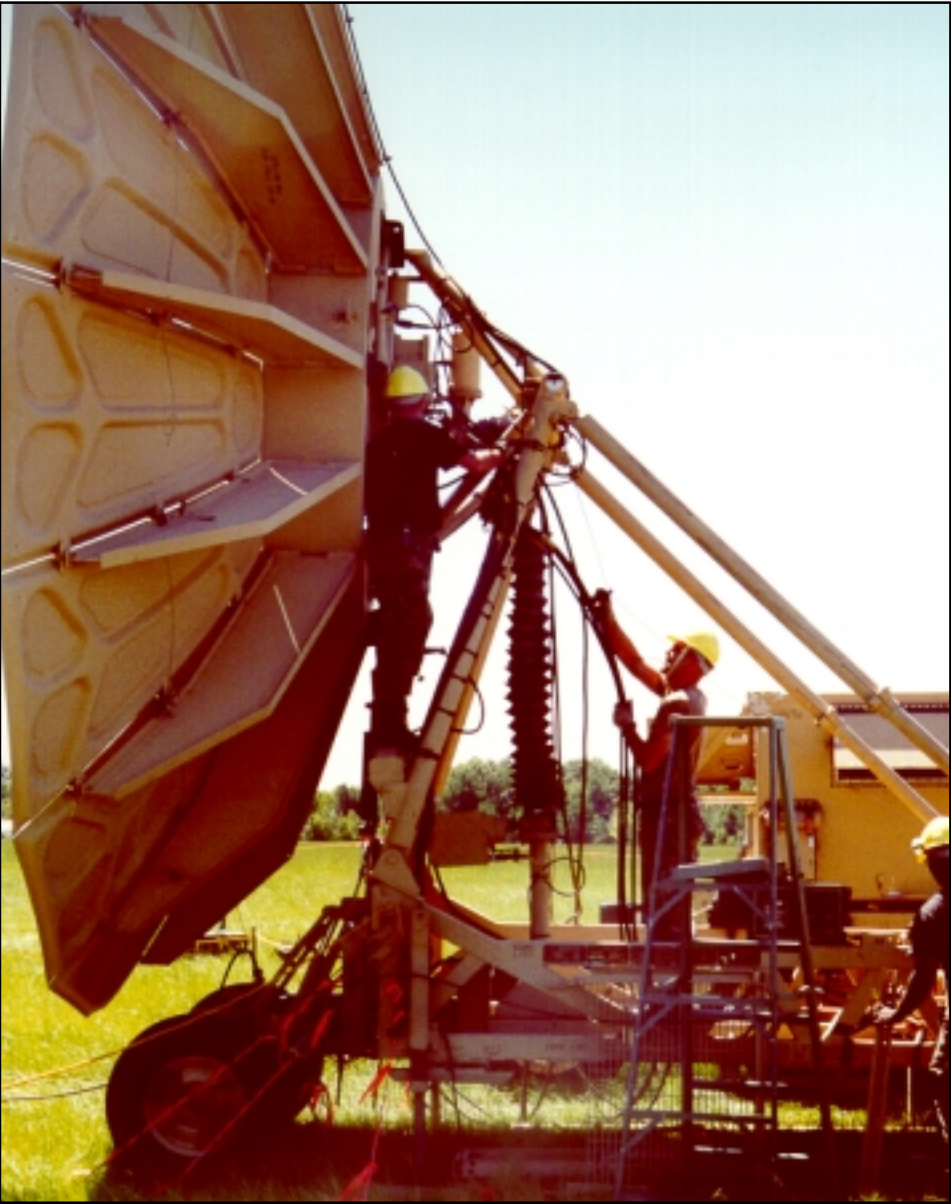


Tech. Sgt. Gregg Greer and 2nd Lt. Torrez Grace get ready to load a pallet onto a convoy vehicle.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gates

Staff Sergeant Chad Schmidt, Airman Michael Stamper and Airman 1st Class John Sperling put together a dish for one of the TRC-170s.



Staff Sergeant Duane Baker and Airman Barrett Williams connect the satellite dish.



Members of the 52nd team carry equipment for the Network Computer Center.